

**Gabriel Jones to George Washington, July 6, 1758,  
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.  
Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of  
America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM GABRIEL JONES.** <sup>1</sup>

WINCHESTER July 6th. 58.

DR. SIR

The Writs for Election being so long on their way that it was ye. 4th. (our Court day) before they came to ye. Sherifs hands, made it Impossible to have ye. Election before the 24th. as ye. Law directs 20 day's between ye. time they come to hand & that day of Election. I am sorry to find that ye. people & those whom I took to be yr. friends in a great measure change their sentiments & now raise doubts in M[???]res<sup>2</sup> that seem to be clear wth. them before, this is ye. consequence of ye. back being turned—your Potowmack people I am afraid will not be stedfast they talk now of the Old Burgesses. West has been two days wth. them, & intends to be very busy till ye. time comes. Colo. Martin publicly accused him with some low transactions, which the other could not clear up, & stands condemned by some of his best friends for such scandalous proceedings—the whole [???]mre is to be laid open the day of the Election. Colo. G. Fairfax will be up & am in hopes will make a great Alteration upon Potowmack the disturbance in Colo. Hites neighbourhood is occasioned by ye. Ranger's being garrisoned—if the removing this Obstacle could be consistent with ye. Interest of the Country & your Duty should be heartily. glad there is now ye. Carolina forces in ye. Fort.

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The late blow in Massanutting & the Harvest will prevent a great many from being down, this I don't think will prejudice you so much as my other friend,<sup>3</sup> his Interest I think declines among the Quakers where I imagine your's is pretty good, in short affairs are totally changed & may be many times so yet before ye. day, your being elected absolutely depends on your presence that day, this is ye. Opinion of every thinking friend & therefore must in ye. most pressing manner desire it. it happened very unluckily that the writs was so long delayed as it was the Case in Augusta. so that both Election's will interfere, however as I have undertaken to serve you no Consideration shall deter me from it. I shall give up mine, in order to be at your's, where if possible I hope you'll be. I think I have said every thing that ye. little time I have to spare allows me, only be assured of the best endeavour's of

Dr. Sir Yr. most Obedt. &ca. GABRIEL JONES

P. S. Pray tell Capt. Stewart I shall kindly think of him till he return's

1 Gabriel Jones was appointed deputy attorney of Augusta County, April 14, 1746, "as a fit person to transact his majesty's affairs in this county," and qualified the following May. He was a learned lawyer, and married a Miss Strother, of Stafford Country, a sister of Mrs. Thomas Lewis and Mrs. Madison, mother of Bishop Madison. Peyton's History of Augusta County. At this period Washington's friend was also actively engaged as county commissioner on the militia, town building, etc. This letter was written on the eve of Washington's election to the Virginia House of Burgesses.

2 Matters.

3 Colonel Washington, Colonel F. B. Martin, Mr. Hugh West, and Thomas Swearingen, were the candidates for Frederick County.